

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action of April 24, 2008, a Replacement Sheet for Figure 2 is submitted in response to the objection of the figures as set forth in the Official Action. In addition, minor amendment has been made to the specification, claims 1, 11, 12, and 30 have been amended and claims 8, 9, 16, 17, 26, and 27 have been cancelled. No new matter is added.

Drawings

At section 3, the drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for not showing the “adjustable decoration”. In this regard, it should be noted that previously submitted Figure 2 shows item 37 as a decoration that is controllable by micro-controller 34. In this regard, it is noted that an “adjustable decoration” means that the presented decoration can be changed; that is, the visual appearance of the cover can be adjusted. Furthermore, applicant has cancelled claims 9, 17, and 27 which made specific reference to an “adjustable decoration”. It is therefore respectfully submitted that the objection to the figures with respect to showing the “adjustable decoration” is moot.

The enclosed Figure 2 has been amended to show a processor (in the form of an MP3 player) 38 to which the “contact sensitive component” plus the printed wiring board (PWB) 36 is connected. Support for this amended Figure 2 is found in original claim 7 in combination with the description set forth in paragraph [0031] of the published application. The specification has also been amended at paragraph [0031] to identify the MP3 player with reference numeral 38, as well as stating that the components with reference numerals 21-25 shown in Figure 1 are summarized in block 36 of Figure 2. No new matter is added since the MP3 player is discussed in the original application as filed and further since the CIM sheet 21, capacitive sensor 22, printed wires 23, connection pins 24, and printed wiring board (PWB) 25 are all discussed in the original application as filed, including page 7, line 11 through page 8, line 25. It would be

apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that block 36 in the enclosed amended Figure 2 comprises such components as specifically enumerated within block 36.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

At section 5, claims 1, 9, 12, 27, and 30 are rejected based on the allegation that it is not clear that the “decoration is adjustable by a processing component”. Claims 9 and 27 are cancelled. Furthermore, claims 1, 12, and 30 have been amended to particularly point out and claim a processor and that the recited connection component is configured to electrically connect said contact sensitive component to said processor.

Support for this amendment is found in the original application as filed, including claim 8 which recites that the cover comprises a processing component to which the contact sensitive component is connected. The processing component has been specified in the amended independent claims to be a processor. The recitation of a processor is also supported by the original application as filed, including originally submitted claim 7. Further support is found in the specification as filed, including paragraph [0031] of the published US application in which it is indicated that the cover comprises an MP3 player. Such an MP3 player clearly implies to a person of ordinary skill in the art that a processor is part of the cover. Furthermore, paragraph [0023] of the published US application also mentions that the cover may comprise a micro-controller which clearly is a form of a processor. Consequently, the rejection of claims 1, 12, and 30 as indefinite is believed to be overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

At section 7, claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over US patent 6,259,045, Imai, in view of US patent 7,345,592, Rogers. It is asserted that Imai teaches a cover as set forth in claim 1 except that it does not expressly teach that the decoration is adjustable by a processing component.

Rogers is cited with regard to a decoration (LED) adjustable by a processing component. It is argued that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to incorporate Rogers' electronic cover having an LED controlled by a CPU into Imai's electronic cover. Applicant respectfully disagrees in view of the arguments presented below.

More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to require a processor as a component of the cover. Thus, the cover itself comprises a processor. Imai does not disclose a cover which comprises a processor. In particular, Imai only discloses the use of a board 40 having electrodes 41 (Imai, Figures 2-7 and column 2, lines 43-46). It is respectfully submitted that the board and the electrodes in Imai cannot be considered to disclose a processor forming part of the cover. At best, the board 40 of Imai corresponds to the connection component of the cover as claimed in amended claim 1. Such a connection component is disclosed in the application as being, for example, a printed wiring board which connects the contact sensitive component with the processor.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 recites features that are not disclosed or suggested by Imai. Further, there is no suggestion in Imai that a processor which is suited to evaluate the input via a contact sensitive component could be included in the cover disclosed in Imai. If one were to proceed from the teaching of Imai, a person of ordinary skill in the art would rather assume that the electrodes of the board are connected to a processor of the associated electronic device as is usual for a processor processing signals of a user input rather than to have a processor forming part of the cover as now recited in amended claim 1. Furthermore, claim 1 as amended provides the advantage that the cover can be a stand-alone device which is suited to provide additional functions to an electronic device for which it is used without requiring modification of the electronic device as such.

Furthermore, Rogers, which is directed to a hand-held remote control unit which has an LED that can be enabled depending upon the use of the remote control device

(such as if it is to be used for operating a video gaming system), does not make up for these deficiencies in Imai and therefore it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is distinguished over Imai in view of Rogers.

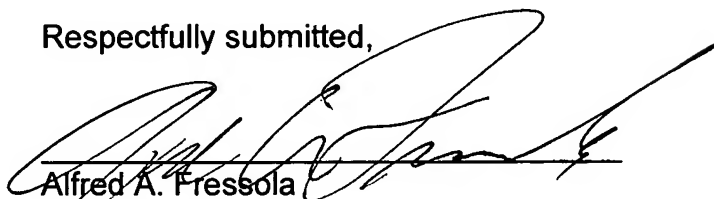
Independent electronic device claim 12 and independent cover claim 30 have been amended in a manner similar to claim 1 and are therefore also believed to be distinguished over the cited art.

Since each of the independent claims of the present application are distinguished over the cited art, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2-7, 10, 11, 13-15, 18-25, 28, and 29 are further distinguished over Imai in view of Rogers at least in view of such dependency.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

The undersigned respectfully submits that no fee is due for filing this Amendment. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to deposit account 23-0442 any fee deficiency required to submit this paper.

Respectfully submitted,



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